

Background

Idaho's SCORTP Task Force developed a survey element used in the 2002 Idaho Outdoor Recreation survey to gauge how Idahoans felt about a variety of recreation issues and opportunities. Using the preference results and use statistics from that survey, Task Force members developed the following set of goals and objects. Task Force expertise in outdoor recreation management and future planning needs for the state of Idaho also came into play in the process.

As required by LWCF regulations, goals that will be met or partially met through the LWCF program are identified. For convenience, objectives that fall into that category are identified with this symbol:



It is important to note that neither the goals nor objectives on the following pages are presented in rank order. The SCORTP Task Force chose to give each equal weight and allow resource opportunities to play into the order in which tasks are accomplished.

Develop a SCORTP Website Where Planning Products are Easily Accessible LwcF

Include:

- SCORTP final products and updates from 1998 foreword
- The Idaho Registry of LWCF projects
- · Registries of projects funded by IDPR outdoor recreation grants
- Reports updated monthly on outdoor recreation vehicle registrations in Idaho
- · Results of outdoor recreation research in Idaho
- ORDC surveys
- Travel and tourism surveys
- Fish and Game surveys
- Recreation accident report data
- A searchable Idaho Outdoor Recreation Facilities Inventory database
- Links to state and federal proposed actions affecting outdoor recreation
- Visitation statistics for state and federal recreation providers
- Descriptive and contact information for Idaho recreation providers
- A public input section where recreationists can report specific recreation needs



Implement a Revised Strategic Planning Process LwcF

- Establish consistency in Idaho SCORTP planning
 - Maintain the SCORTP Task Force as the guiding entity for outdoor recreation planning in Idaho
 - Develop a Task Force Listserve
 - Institute quarterly meetings of the Task Force
 - Develop a SCORTP manual that specifies the minimum components and requirements of Idaho's plan
- Establish interim measures of SCORTP identified objectives
 - Create a SCORTP objectives scorecard and update it at least annually

Develop a Program for Implementation of Ongoing, Reliable and Valid Outdoor Recreation Research Lwcf

- Conduct regular statewide research on recreation needs
- Conduct research on specific user needs and issues
- Conduct regular research at the regional level so that planners can respond to local needs
- The SCORTP Task Force will define recreation and tourism data needs and adopt standard measures and database parameters for outdoor recreation research in Idaho in order to establish trends
- Use adopted scientific standards in the collection, use and analysis of data
- Monitor customer satisfaction with Idaho's recreation and tourism facilities and programs, and make the findings available to all
- Identify methods and protocols for assessing the social, cultural and economic impacts of outdoor recreation and tourism in Idaho
- Identify emergent technologies that may impact outdoor recreation



Provide a Full Range of Outdoor Recreation Opportunities that Recognize the Multiplicity of Activities in Idaho

- Institute demonstration projects where best practice management initiatives can be tested (such as designated-use trail systems)
- Maintain and, where necessary, create, expand and diversify trail systems in urban and rural areas to link communities, public and private recreation and tourism opportunities
- Encourage corridor and area management planning that addresses associated services and activities in a cumulative fashion, as opposed to single sites and services
- Address deferred maintenance and seek to provide additional services at appropriate land and water access areas
- Assure that outdoor recreation opportunities and issues are fully considered in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing

Create an Idaho Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources Education Initiative

- Focus more resources of existing educational, interpretive and visitor information staff and facilities on providing education about Idaho's natural resources and the interplay of outdoor recreation with those resources
- Maintain an education program for residents on the dimensions and importance of recreation and tourism in the State of Idaho
- Identify funding sources for safety and user ethics education efforts for motorized and nonmotorized outdoor recreation activities
- Establish a procedure for Idaho sheriffs' offices to report motorbike, ATV and snowmobile fatalities
- Include a component recognizing the importance of outdoor recreation in fitness and health
- Seek gubernatorial support for this education initiative



Protect Existing Access to Outdoor Recreation

- Identify and develop strategies to maintain appropriate public access to corridors through programs such as the Federal Side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Rails-to-Trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers and Scenic Byways
- Implement and maintain education and information programs describing appropriate corridor activities, especially trail etiquette
- Provide assistance in the form of funding and expertise to local governments to inventory and acquire corridors for public use
- Protect existing access through recreation easements and purchase of key access sites
- Research strategies for better law enforcement on public lands
 - What is the public perception of need?
 - How would it be funded?
 - How would the public report violations?
 - To what extent is self-policing practical?

Continue the Promotion of Outdoor Recreation Partnerships

- Encourage partnerships with private ventures where public access to recreation opportunities will be enhanced
- Use IRTI as a forum for cooperation in reducing the duplication of services and facilities
- Use IRTI as a forum for creating coordinating policies
- Develop a vehicle to provide private entrepreneurs with information on concession and partnership opportunities with governmental agencies
- Develop a vehicle to provide local governments with information on grant opportunities available for outdoor recreation projects
- Work with counties, municipalities, and other local public entities to develop new, coordinated outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the state.



Diversify Funding for Outdoor Recreation

- Identify a funding source to implement the State Trust for Outdoor Recreation Enhancement (STORE) program in Idaho to assure funding for community and school recreation facility development and rehabilitation
- Work with the Idaho Recreation and Parks Association, cities, counties, and the education community to develop a STORE funding package for presentation to the Idaho Legislature
- Work with Idaho's Congressional Delegation to rebuild funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Poll Idaho recreationists to determine funding needs and identify appropriate sources of funding for:
 - Motorized and nonmotorized boating
 - Snowmobiling
 - Cross-country skiing
 - ATV and motorbike recreation
 - Equestrians
 - Hiking
 - Mountain biking
 - Search and rescue
 - Accommodation Programs for people with disabilities
- Based on the research findings, work with IRPA and other appropriate parties to develop appropriate funding legislation

Promote a Unified Recreation and Tourism Marketing Program

- Coordinate marketing efforts through the Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative (IRTI)
- Through IRTI, continue to seek vehicles for joint information efforts
- While reserving a consulting role, partner agencies recognize the Idaho Department of Commerce as the lead agency for statewide outdoor recreation and tourism marketing
- When practical use the Idaho logo in all promotional materials to help build brand identification



Recognize the Importance of Transportation in Planning Projects

- Encourage alternative transportation systems such as community pathways, bicycle, rail and mass transportation services
- Improve surface transportation routes connecting communities with nearby recreation and tourism opportunities
- Maintain scenic byways for safe and pleasurable use while not diminishing the characteristics for which the byway was established

Integrate Historic, Cultural and Heritage Opportunities in Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

- Include the Idaho State Historical Society, Idaho Commission on the Arts, the Idaho Humanities Council, the Idaho Heritage Trust, Native American tribes and other appropriate organizations in planning and marketing efforts
- Strictly adhere to State Historic Preservation Office rules regarding protection of historic and cultural resources
- Promote Idaho's historic and cultural resource sites as destination opportunities when appropriate

Develop, Maintain and Promote High-Quality Fish and Wildlife Recreational Opportunities

- Encourage fish and wildlife management practices that sustain a variety of wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities and scientific and educational uses
- Develop educational materials for all ages that explain the role and importance of fish and wildlife in natural ecosystems
- Involve fish and wildlife professionals and agencies involved in major recreation and tourism decisions to ensure that recreation and tourism products and services have minimal impact on fish and wildlife
- Seek opportunities to fund non-game activities such as wildlife viewing



Balance Outdoor Recreation Opportunities with Sensitivity to the Environment

- · Seek to maintain and, when possible, improve Idaho's water quality
- Recreation and tourism planning should incorporate protection and management of sensitive resource values to ensure their long-term availability
- Levels and types of use at Idaho's recreation and tourism facilities should be compatible with natural habitats and ecosystems
- Develop and maintain programs for the control of invasive plant and animal species
- Finish migrating Idaho wetland data to computer **LWCF**
- Support and enhance interagency watershed planning by pooling resources
- Where appropriate, support instream flows to protect watersheds and river reaches where recreation opportunities, aesthetics, water quality or aquatic ecosystems are endangered
- Federal and state agencies should work together to assure recognition of state agency input regarding federal planning efforts on state waters, including acknowledgment of the state protected river system

